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ABSTRACT

This report presents national birth rates for teenagers for 1991-1998 and the percent change from 1991 to 1998. State-specific teenage birth rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin for 1991 and 1998, and the percent change, 1991 to 1998, are also presented. Tabular and graphical descriptions of the trends in teenage birth rates for the United States and each state are discussed by age, race, and Hispanic origin of the mother. Birth rates for teenagers 15 to 19 years old declined nationally between 1991 and 1998 for all age and race and Hispanic origin populations, with the steepest declines recorded for Black teenagers. State-specific rates fell significantly in all states for ages 15 through 19 years. Declines ranged from 10 to 38%. In general, rates by state fell more for younger than older teenagers, ranging by state from 10 to 46% for ages 15 to 17 years. Statistically significant reductions for older teenagers ranged from 3 to 39%. Reductions by state were largest for black teenagers 15 to 19 years, with rates falling 30% or more in 15 states. Among the factors accounting for these declines are decreased sexual activity, increased condom use, and the adoption of the implant and injectable contraceptives. (SLD)

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

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Variations in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991–98: National and State Trends

by Stephanie J. Ventura, M.A.; Sally C. Curtin, M.A.; and T. J. Mathews, M.S; Division of Vital Statistics

Abstract

Objectives—This report presents national birth rates for teenagers for 1991–98 and the percent change, 1991–98. State-specific teenage birth rates by age, race, and Hispanic origin for 1991 and 1998 and the percent change, 1991 to 1998, are also presented.

Methods—Tabular and graphical descriptions of the trends in teenage birth rates for the Nation and each State, by age group, race, and Hispanic origin of the mother, are discussed.

Results—Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years declined nationally between 1991 and 1998 for all age and race and Hispanic origin populations, with the steepest declines recorded for black teenagers. State-specific rates fell significantly in all States for ages 15–19 years; declines ranged from 10 to 38 percent. In general, rates by State fell more for younger than for older teenagers, ranging by State from 10 to 46 percent for ages 15–17 years. Statistically significant reductions for older teenagers ranged from 3 to 39 percent. Reductions by State were largest for black teenagers 15–19 years, with rates falling 30 percent or more in 15 States. Among the factors accounting for these declines are decreased sexual activity, increases in condom use, and the adoption of the implant and injectable contraceptives.

Keywords: teenage fertility • State-specific birth rates • race and Hispanic origin • teenage pregnancy

Introduction

The birth rate for U.S. teenagers in 1998 was 51.1 live births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years, 2 percent lower than in 1997, and 18 percent lower than in 1991 when it reached its recent peak (**table 1 and figure 1**). The 1998 rate is close to the 1986 record low of 50.2 (1, 2).

The number of births to women aged 15–19 years increased only slightly to 484,895 in 1998, compared with 483,220 in 1997; the 1998 total was still 7 percent lower than the recent high in 1990 of 521,826. The 3-percent increase in the number of teenage females in the population between 1997 and 1998 accounts entirely for the modest rise in the number of births (3).

The major shift in teenage childbearing patterns over the last half century has been the general decline in the birth *rate* whereas the proportion of teenage births that occur to unmarried women has risen steeply (**figure 1**).

Details of trends and variations in teenage pregnancy and childbearing in the 1990's, including some discussion of the health consequences and the demographic and behavioral changes accounting for the recent trends, have been published in recent reports (1, 2, 4). This report updates the findings through 1998 for national and State data.

Teenage birth and pregnancy rates fall

When data on live births are combined with information for induced abortions and fetal losses, we are able to compute pregnancy rates. The most recent year for which teenage pregnancy rates can be computed is 1996, because information on abortions and fetal losses is not as current as information on live births. The estimated teenage pregnancy rate in 1996 was 98.7 pregnancies (the sum of live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses) per 1,000 women aged 15–19, down 15 percent from its high point of 116.5 in 1991 (4). A consistent series of pregnancy rates for teenagers is available since 1976; the 1996 rate is lower than in any year since 1976. The rate for young teenagers 15–17 years fell 16 percent from its recent peak (80.3 per 1,000 in 1990) to 67.8 in 1996, while the rate for older teenagers dropped 12 percent from its recent peak in 1991 (167.2) to 146.4 in 1996.

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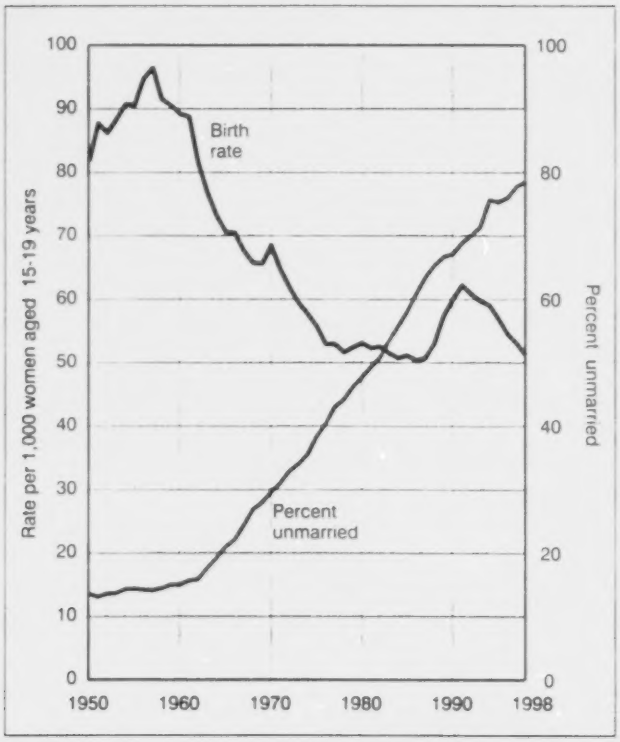

Figure 1. Birth rate for teenagers 15–19 years and percent of teenage births to unmarried teenagers: United States, 1950–98

Birth rates decline for teenagers in all age groups

The birth rate for the youngest age group, 10–14 years, fell to 1.0 per 1,000 (**table 1**), its lowest level since 1969 (also 1.0). Moreover, the *number* of births to teenagers in this age group fell to 9,462 in 1998, down 7 percent from 1997 and down 27 percent from its recent high in 1994 (12,901 births).

The birth rate for teenagers 15–17 years reached a record low in 1998, 30.4 per 1,000, declining 5 percent from 1997 to 1998, and 21 percent from 1991. The decline in the 1990's essentially reverses the 27-percent increase in the rate from 1986 (30.5) to 1991 (38.7). The number of births in this age group dropped to 173,231, the lowest number since 1987 (1).

The birth rate for teenagers 18–19 years declined 2 percent in 1998, to 82.0. This rate has dropped 13 percent since its 1992 high of 94.5. The number of births in this age group, however, increased 3 percent, reflecting the 5-percent increase in the number of teenage females 18–19 years (3).

Most teenage births are to unmarried women

The overall teenage birth rate has been declining since 1991, and the birth rate for *unmarried* teenagers has fallen since 1994 (1, 2). Despite these declines, the proportion of births to teenagers that were unmarried continued to increase in 1998, as it has over the past half century (figure 1). The proportion unmarried rose to 78.9 percent for all teenage births, up from 78.2 percent in 1997. For teenagers 15–17 years, the percent unmarried increased from 86.7 to 87.5 percent, whereas for older teenagers, it rose from 72.5 to 73.6 percent (**table A**).

Both the total number of births to teenagers 15–17 years and the number of births to unmarried teenagers 15–17 years declined between 1997 and 1998. However, the total number declined even more than the number of nonmarital births. As a result the percent unmarried for teenagers 15–17 years continued to increase.

Although the proportion of teenage births that are nonmarital continues to rise, it is still the case that most births to unmarried women are not to teenagers. In 1998, 70 percent were to women aged 20 years and over, compared with about half in the mid-1970's.

Birth rates fall most steeply for black teenagers

Birth rates have dropped sharply for black teenagers since 1991, declining overall by 26 percent, from 115.5 in 1991 to 85.4 per 1,000 teenagers 15–19 years in 1998 (**table 1**), lower than in any year since 1960, when data for black women first became available (1). The rate for Hispanic women has declined steadily since 1994 (107.7), and was 93.6 in 1998, dropping 13 percent in 4 years. Despite these declines, birth rates for black and Hispanic teenagers continue to be higher than for other groups; the rates for Hispanic teenagers have been higher than for black teenagers since 1994. Asian or Pacific Islander (API) teenagers have the lowest rate (23.1 in 1998).

The birth rate for non-Hispanic white teenagers declined 19 percent during 1991–98, to 35.2 per 1,000 in 1998, while the rates for American Indian and API teenagers declined 15 to 16 percent each between 1991 and 1998, to 72.1 and 23.1, respectively (table 1). In each race and Hispanic origin group, birth rates declined more for young teenagers 15–17 years than for their older counterparts (**figures 2 and 3**).

Serious health consequences for teenage childbearing

Teenage mothers are much less likely than older women to receive timely prenatal care (**figure 4**), although timely care has improved in the 1990's for women in all age groups (2). In addition, teenage mothers are more likely to smoke during pregnancy.

Table A. Number of total births and percent of births to unmarried women, all ages and women under 20 years: United States, 1997–98

Age of mother	Total births		Births to unmarried women		Percent unmarried	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997
All ages	3,941,553	3,880,894	1,293,567	1,257,444	32.8	32.4
Under 20 years	494,357	493,341	390,005	385,802	78.9	78.2
Under 15 years	9,462	10,121	9,137	9,685	96.6	95.7
15–19 years	484,895	483,220	380,868	376,117	78.5	77.8
15–17 years	173,231	180,154	151,557	156,253	87.5	86.7
18–19 years	311,664	303,066	229,311	219,864	73.6	72.5

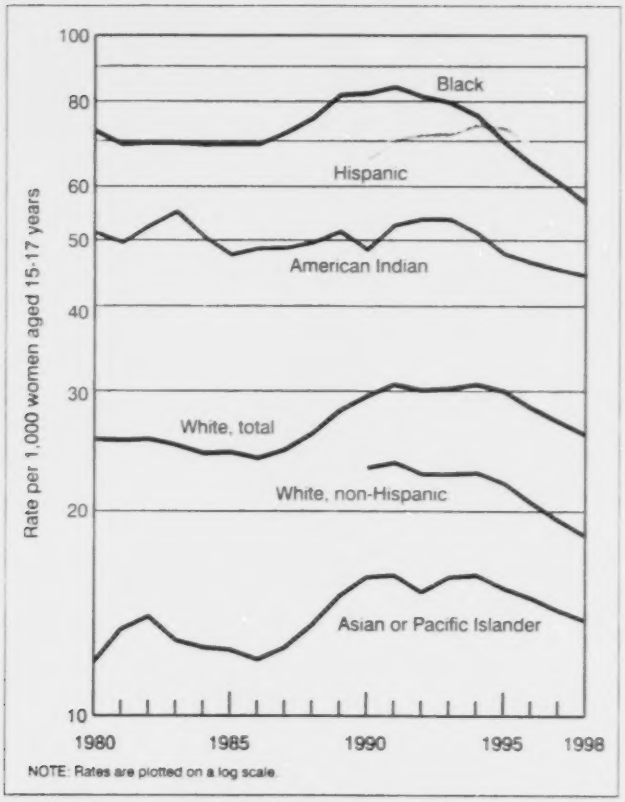

Figure 2. Birth rate for teenagers 15–17 years by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1980–98

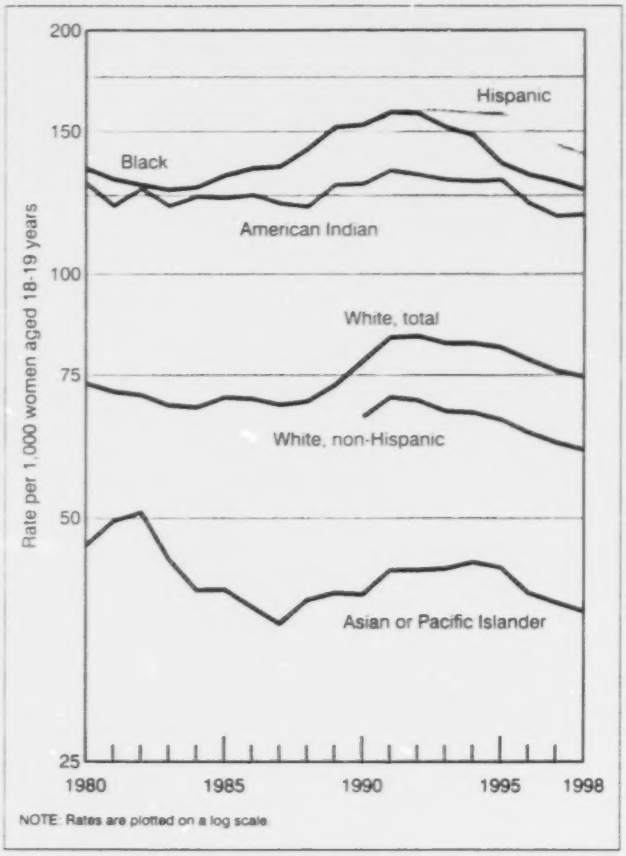

Figure 3. Birth rate for teenagers 18–19 years by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1980–98

Moreover, unlike smoking rates for older women that have declined steadily in the 1990's, smoking by pregnant teenagers has increased since 1994 (2, 6). As a consequence of these and other factors, including less adequate weight gain during pregnancy, infants born to teenagers are at elevated risk of low birthweight, of preterm birth, and of dying in the first year of life (2, 7).

Teenage birth rates vary greatly by State

Birth rates vary substantially by State and territory. In 1998 the State rates per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years ranged from 24.4 (Vermont) to 73.0 (Mississippi) (**tables 2, 3, and figure 5**). The rate for the District of Columbia was 86.7; the highest rate reported was for Guam (104.8).

As previously reported, differences in overall rates by State reflect in part the differences in the composition of the teenage populations of the States by race and Hispanic origin (1, 5, 6). This report includes, for the first time, birth rates for 1991 and 1998 for American Indian and API teenagers 15–19 years for all States for which these rates could be reliably computed (**table 4**). Rates within States are generally much higher for Hispanic and black teenagers than for non-Hispanic white, American Indian, and API teenagers. This pattern is found in 1998 for all but 10 States for which reliable rates could be computed (table 4). Therefore, States with relatively high proportions of Hispanic and/or black teenagers would be expected to have higher overall teenage birth rates. These compositional differences should be kept in mind when comparing teenage birth rates across States (8).

Rates by State decline for younger and older teenagers

Between 1991 and 1998, birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years fell in all States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands, with statistically significant reductions in all areas except Puerto Rico and Guam, which increased (**table 2 and figure 6**). Declines exceeded 20 percent in 13 States and the District of Columbia.

Birth rates for teenage subgroups also vary greatly by State and territory. Rates for teenagers 15–17 years fell significantly in all States except Wyoming. Changes in the Virgin Islands and Guam were not significant; the rate increased in Puerto Rico. Declines exceeded 20 percent in 25 States and the District of Columbia. The rates for the District of Columbia, Maine, Michigan, and Vermont declined at least 30 percent.

State-specific rates for older teenagers 18–19 years also fell but not as steeply as for younger teenagers. Statistically significant reductions were reported for all but four States and Puerto Rico. Changes in Rhode Island and Guam were not significant. Rates fell significantly by 20 percent or more in seven States and the Virgin Islands.

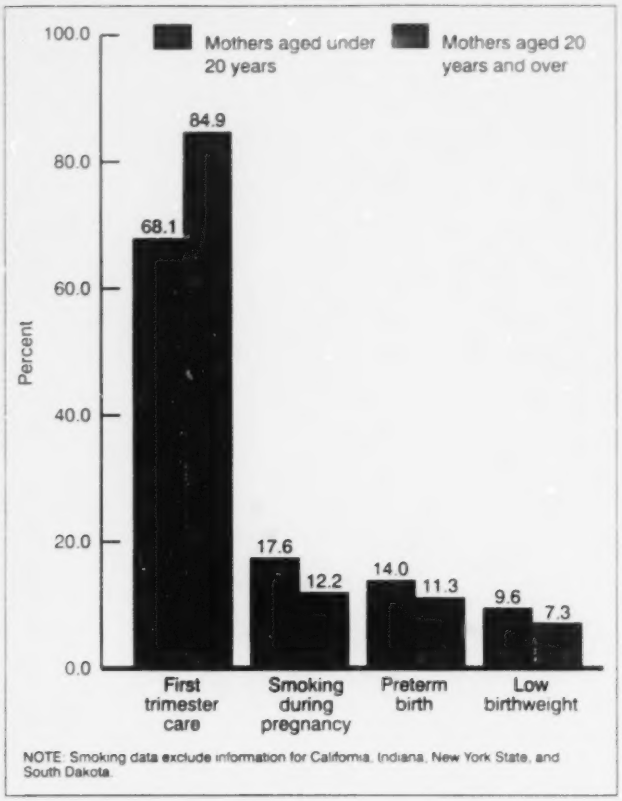

Figure 4. Selected characteristics for teenage mothers and mothers aged 20 years and over: United States, 1998

Rates by State decline most sharply for black teenagers

Birth rates for black teenagers could be reliably computed for 39 States and the District of Columbia for both 1991 and 1998 (**table 4**). State-specific rates fell significantly everywhere except for West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Statistically significant declines ranging from 19 percent to 43 percent were found for all of the 38 States; declines exceeded 30 percent in 15 States.

State-level birth rates for non-Hispanic white teenagers declined in all States. Reductions, which ranged from 6 to 63 percent, were statistically significant in all States except Delaware and the District of Columbia, and exceeded 30 percent in five States.

Teenage birth rates for Hispanic teenagers could be reliably computed for both 1991 and 1998 for 37 States; rates for 1998 alone are available for 42 States. As noted earlier, rates for Hispanic teenagers nationally began declining more recently—after 1994—so the overall declines are smaller than for other population groups. Thus, reductions were found in fewer States: Rates fell significantly in 12 States, while increasing in 10 States. Substantial population increases due to immigration have affected rates in several States (5).

As was the case for black and Hispanic teenagers, birth rates for American Indian and API teenagers could not be reliably computed for all States for 1991 and 1998, reflecting in part the substantial geographic concentration of the American Indian and API populations. In addition, the low birth rates for API teenagers reflect very small absolute numbers of births in many States. Rates for American Indian teenagers are available for both years for 18 States; rates for 1998 alone are available for 23 States. Rates fell significantly in 10 States.

Birth rates for API teenagers are available for both 1991 and 1998 for 31 States, and for 1998 alone for 35 States. Changes were not significant for 26 States; rates for four States fell significantly whereas the rate for one State (North Carolina) increased significantly.

Factors affecting teenage birth rates in the 1990's

As noted earlier, teenage pregnancy rates have declined considerably in the 1990's with declines found for all three pregnancy outcomes—live birth, induced abortion, and fetal loss. The overall pregnancy rate and the induced abortion rate in 1996 are at their lowest in at least two decades (4). Pregnancy and birth rates fell after 1991, while the abortion rate began to decline after 1988.

In the mid-1990's, from 1996 to 1998, all of the decline in the teenage birth rate has been due to the decline in the first birth rate; the decline earlier in the decade in the rate of second births to teenagers who had already had one birth appears to have halted, at least temporarily, since 1996. The rate had declined 21 percent during 1991–96 (2, 4).

Several factors likely account for the falling teenage birth (and pregnancy) rates. One is changing attitudes toward premarital sex, possibly reflecting the influence of widespread public and private efforts focusing teenagers' attention on the importance of pregnancy prevention through abstinence and responsible behavior (9). Teenage sexual activity has leveled off according to several national surveys (4, 8, 9). Also important are increases in condom use and the adoption of the effective injectable and implant contraceptives (4, 10, 12). Another factor is the long economic expansion in the 1990's, increasing economic opportunity for teenagers (as well as older women). Economic opportunity may have given teenagers a reason to more highly value education and work and to postpone early pregnancy and parenthood.

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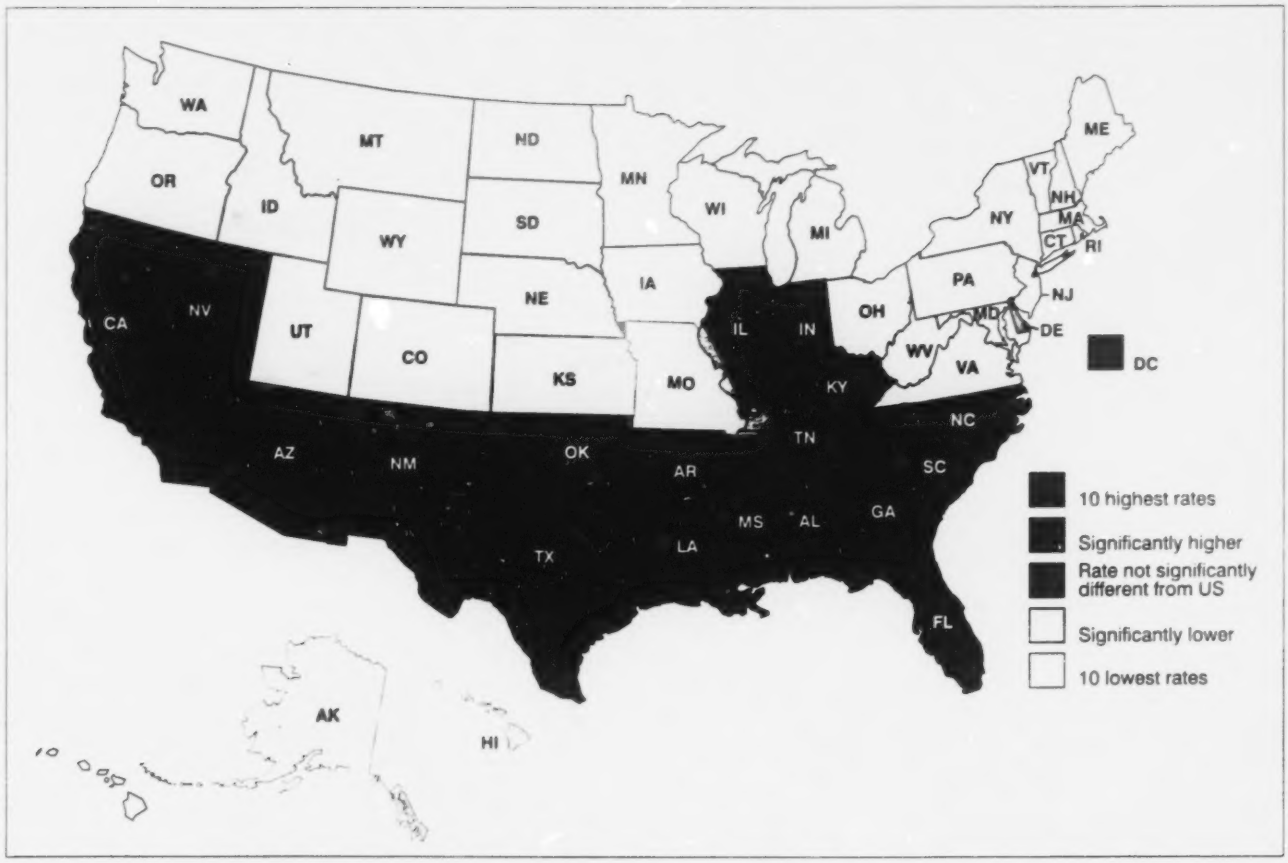

Figure 5. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years by State, 1998

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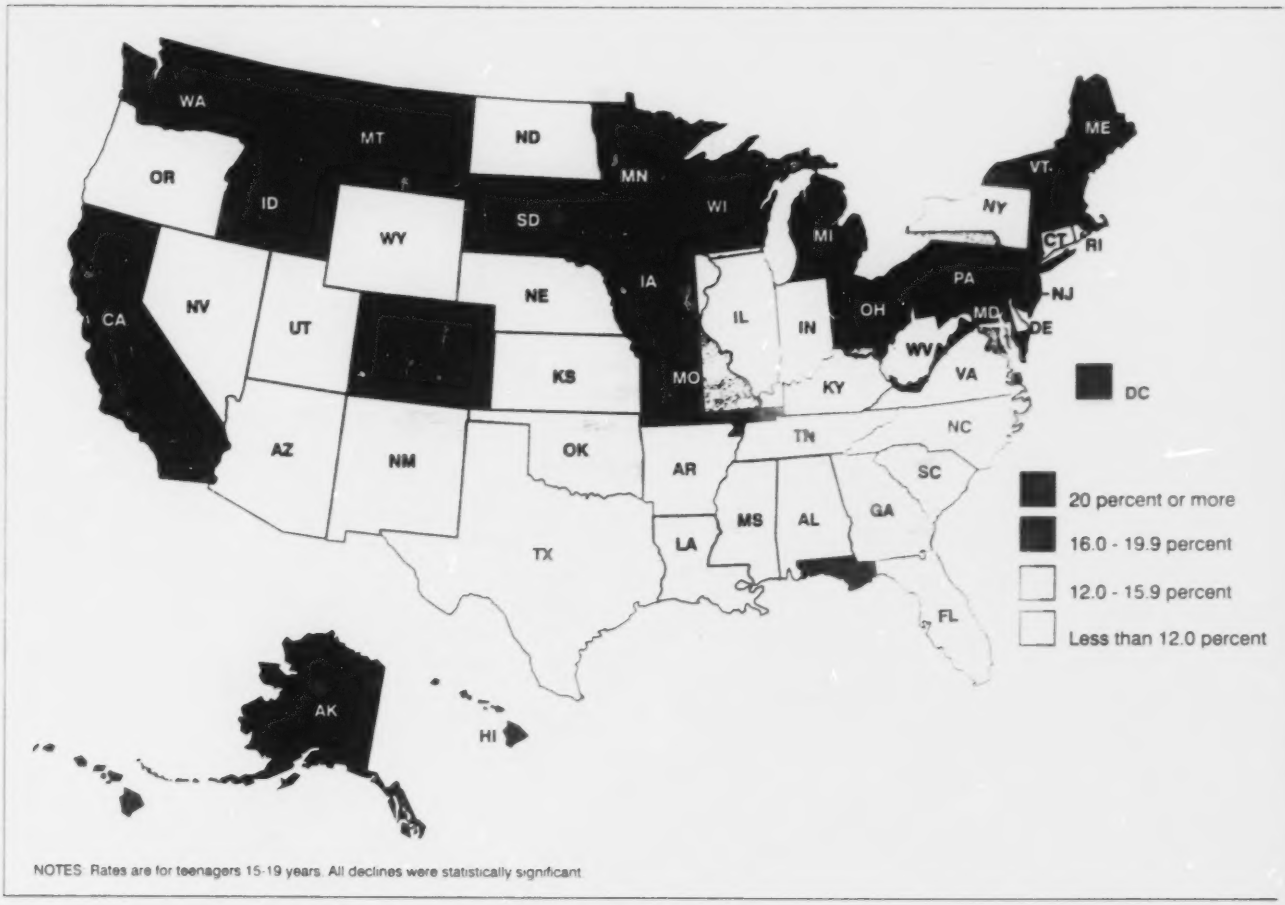

NOTES: Rates are for teenagers 15-19 years. All declines were statistically significant.

Figure 6. Percent decline in teenage birth rates by State, 1991 to 1998

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Table 1. Births for women under 20 years, by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1998, and birth rates, 1990–98, and percent change in rates, 1991–98

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

Age and race and Hispanic origin of mother	Number of births, 1998	Birth rates									Percent change in rates, 1991–98
		1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	
10–14 years											
Total	9,462	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	–28.6
White, total	4,801	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	–25.0
Non-Hispanic white	2,132	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	–40.0
Black	4,289	2.9	3.3	3.6	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	–39.6
American Indian[1]	197	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	175	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	–50.0
Hispanic[2]	2,716	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4	–12.5
15–19 years											
Total	484,895	51.1	52.3	54.4	56.8	58.9	59.6	60.7	62.1	59.9	–17.7
White, total	340,694	45.4	46.3	48.1	50.1	51.1	51.1	51.8	52.8	50.8	–14.0
Non-Hispanic white	219,169	35.2	36.0	37.6	39.3	40.4	40.7	41.7	43.4	42.5	–18.9
Black	126,937	85.4	88.2	91.4	96.1	104.5	108.6	112.4	115.5	112.8	–26.1
American Indian[1]	8,201	72.1	71.8	73.9	78.0	80.8	83.1	84.4	85.0	81.1	–15.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	9,063	23.1	23.7	24.6	26.1	27.1	27.0	26.6	27.4	26.4	–15.7
Hispanic[2]	121,388	93.6	97.4	101.8	106.7	107.7	106.8	107.1	106.7	100.3	–12.3
15–17 years											
Total	173,231	30.4	32.1	33.8	36.0	37.6	37.8	37.8	38.7	37.5	–21.4
White, total	116,623	25.9	27.1	28.4	30.0	30.7	30.3	30.1	30.7	29.5	–15.6
Non-Hispanic white	68,619	18.4	19.4	20.6	22.0	22.8	22.7	22.7	23.6	23.2	–22.0
Black	50,103	56.8	60.8	64.7	69.7	76.3	79.8	81.3	84.1	82.3	–32.5
American Indian[1]	3,167	44.4	45.3	46.4	47.8	51.3	53.7	53.8	52.7	48.5	–15.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	3,338	13.8	14.3	14.9	15.4	16.1	16.0	15.2	16.1	16.0	–14.3
Hispanic[2]	48,234	62.3	66.3	69.0	72.9	74.0	71.7	71.4	70.6	65.9	–11.8
18–19 years											
Total	311,664	82.0	83.6	86.0	89.1	91.5	92.1	94.5	94.4	88.6	–13.1
White, total	224,071	74.6	75.9	78.4	81.2	82.1	82.1	83.8	83.5	78.0	–10.7
Non-Hispanic white	150,550	60.6	61.9	63.7	66.1	67.4	67.7	69.8	70.5	66.6	–14.0
Black	76,834	126.9	130.1	132.5	137.1	148.3	151.9	157.9	158.6	152.9	–20.0
American Indian[1]	5,034	118.4	117.6	122.3	130.7	130.3	130.7	132.6	134.3	129.3	–11.8
Asian or Pacific Islander	5,725	38.3	39.3	40.4	43.4	44.1	43.3	43.1	43.1	40.2	–11.1
Hispanic[2]	73,154	140.1	144.3	151.1	157.9	158.0	159.1	159.7	158.5	147.7	–11.6

[1]Includes births to Aleuts and Eskimos.
[2]Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

Table 2. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years, by age group and State and territory, and percent change by age, 1991–98

State	1991			1998			Percent change, 1991–98		
	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years
United States[1]	62.1	38.7	94.4	51.1	30.4	82.0	–17.7	–21.4	–13.1
Alabama	73.9	47.7	109.5	65.5	40.7	100.4	–11.4	–14.7	–8.3
Alaska	65.4	35.3	111.7	42.4	24.8	58.6	–35.2	–29.7	–38.6
Arizona	80.7	51.4	122.6	70.5	45.2	108.2	–12.6	–12.1	–11.7
Arkansas	79.8	49.4	122.8	70.8	41.4	114.0	–11.3	–16.2	–7.2
California	74.7	46.9	113.6	53.5	33.4	83.4	–28.4	–28.8	–26.6
Colorado	58.2	35.3	91.4	48.7	29.0	79.0	–16.3	–17.8	–13.6
Connecticut	40.4	26.3	59.4	35.8	21.4	58.6	–11.4	–18.6	**–1.3
Delaware	61.1	40.3	87.1	53.9	33.9	81.7	–11.8	–15.9	**–6.2
District of Columbia	114.4	102.8	125.5	86.7	65.5	110.8	–24.2	–36.3	–11.7
Florida	68.8	44.0	102.9	55.5	33.3	90.8	–19.3	–24.3	–11.8
Georgia	76.3	50.6	110.9	65.4	40.3	102.5	–14.3	–20.4	–7.6
Hawaii	58.7	34.7	91.5	45.7	29.5	67.3	–22.1	–15.0	–26.4
Idaho	53.9	29.3	90.8	44.8	24.5	73.1	–16.9	–16.4	–19.5
Illinois	64.8	40.6	99.1	53.2	32.7	85.0	–17.9	–19.5	–14.2
Indiana	60.5	35.2	95.2	53.3	28.9	89.5	–11.9	–17.9	–6.0
Iowa	42.6	22.8	71.5	35.2	18.6	60.3	–17.4	–18.4	–15.7
Kansas	55.4	29.4	94.1	47.0	24.8	81.1	–15.2	–15.6	–13.8
Kentucky	68.9	42.6	105.5	57.0	31.5	94.2	–17.3	–26.1	–10.7
Louisiana	76.1	51.1	111.4	65.4	40.4	100.6	–14.1	–20.9	–9.7
Maine	43.5	23.8	70.1	30.4	14.9	54.5	–30.1	–37.4	–22.3
Maryland	54.3	35.2	79.8	43.1	26.4	69.2	–20.6	–25.0	–13.3
Massachusetts	37.8	25.2	52.9	30.8	18.2	49.5	–18.5	–27.8	–6.4
Michigan	59.0	35.5	91.1	42.6	23.9	70.9	–27.8	–32.7	–22.2
Minnesota	37.3	20.7	61.4	30.6	16.5	52.7	–18.0	–20.3	–14.2
Mississippi	85.6	60.1	120.4	73.0	47.2	110.3	–14.7	–21.5	–8.4
Missouri	64.5	38.7	100.7	51.2	28.6	85.7	–20.6	–26.1	–14.9
Montana	46.7	23.6	83.0	37.1	19.8	63.3	–20.6	–16.1	–23.7
Nebraska	42.4	23.6	69.2	37.0	20.5	61.6	–12.7	–13.1	–11.0
Nevada	75.3	43.9	119.1	65.7	38.2	109.5	–12.7	–13.0	–8.1
New Hampshire	33.3	17.1	53.8	27.1	13.1	50.0	–18.6	–23.4	**–7.1
New Jersey	41.6	26.3	62.9	34.6	20.2	56.9	–16.8	–23.2	–9.5
New Mexico	79.8	50.0	124.4	69.0	44.2	107.5	–13.5	–11.6	–13.6
New York	46.0	29.1	69.0	38.5	22.4	62.4	–16.3	–23.0	–9.6
North Carolina	70.5	46.2	101.7	61.0	36.2	98.5	–13.5	–21.6	–3.1
North Dakota	35.6	18.1	62.4	30.4	16.1	52.5	–14.6	–11.0	–15.9
Ohio	60.5	36.2	93.8	48.1	26.7	80.3	–20.5	–26.2	–14.4
Oklahoma	72.1	41.7	115.6	61.6	35.0	102.6	–14.6	–16.1	–11.2
Oregon	54.9	31.3	90.7	47.4	26.3	80.0	–13.7	–16.0	–11.8
Pennsylvania	46.9	29.2	70.5	36.9	21.8	60.2	–21.3	–25.3	–14.6
Rhode Island	45.4	30.1	63.6	41.0	24.4	65.8	–9.7	–18.9	**3.5
South Carolina	72.9	48.0	105.4	60.4	39.6	89.8	–17.1	–17.5	–14.8
South Dakota	47.5	26.3	79.2	38.5	19.6	66.0	–18.9	–25.5	–16.7
Tennessee	75.2	47.8	112.1	64.3	37.7	103.4	–14.5	–21.1	–7.8
Texas	78.9	50.4	119.3	70.9	45.2	109.3	–10.1	–10.3	–8.4
Utah	48.2	27.0	79.8	40.9	22.2	65.6	–15.1	–17.8	–17.8
Vermont	39.2	21.3	62.0	24.4	11.4	44.6	–37.8	–46.5	–28.1
Virginia	53.5	31.8	81.2	43.5	24.3	70.7	–18.7	–23.6	–12.9
Washington	53.7	31.0	86.5	41.7	23.2	69.6	–22.3	–25.2	–19.5
West Virginia	57.8	32.4	93.2	49.2	26.2	81.5	–14.9	–19.1	–12.6
Wisconsin	43.7	24.8	71.2	34.8	19.6	58.1	–20.4	–21.0	–18.4
Wyoming	54.2	26.4	98.6	47.8	22.8	86.5	–11.8	**–13.6	–12.3
Puerto Rico	72.4	50.8	105.9	74.3	54.4	102.3	2.6	7.1	**–3.4
Virgin Islands	77.9	48.6	124.0	62.0	40.1	94.5	–20.4	**–17.5	–23.8
Guam	95.7	55.0	156.1	104.8	60.4	176.1	9.5	**9.8	**12.8
American Samoa	---	---	---	43.9	17.3	86.4	---	---	---
Northern Marianas	---	---	---	65.5	50.4	83.7	---	---	---

** Not significant at $p < 0.05$
--- Data not available
[1]Excludes data for the territories

NOTE: Birth rates by State shown in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and, therefore, the rates shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates.

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Table 3. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years, by age and race and Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1998

[Rates are births per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	15–19 years					15–17 years					18–19 years				
		White					White					White			
	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]
United States	51.1	45.4	35.2	85.4	93.6	30.4	25.9	18.4	56.8	62.3	82.0	74.6	60.6	126.9	140.1
Alabama	65.5	53.8	52.9	88.6	99.9	40.7	30.5	29.7	61.9	72.8	100.4	88.1	87.0	123.3	*
Alaska	42.4	31.9	30.5	49.3	65.0	24.8	16.5	15.1	*	*	68.6	54.8	53.3	*	*
Arizona	70.5	70.4	41.3	76.4	124.7	45.2	45.2	22.9	50.3	87.9	108.2	107.4	68.8	114.0	177.5
Arkansas	70.8	62.2	60.3	99.6	110.7	41.4	32.7	31.4	71.5	68.4	114.0	106.6	104.0	137.8	170.8
California	53.5	58.1	27.7	64.0	87.1	33.4	36.5	14.4	40.0	58.1	83.4	89.7	47.5	97.4	129.0
Colorado	48.7	47.4	30.6	76.3	113.8	29.0	28.1	15.5	48.3	77.2	79.0	77.2	53.5	118.8	171.9
Connecticut	35.8	30.5	17.1	77.3	117.7	21.4	17.6	8.1	51.5	79.4	58.6	51.0	31.5	116.4	179.0
Delaware	53.9	39.0	34.2	104.0	112.1	33.9	22.9	19.7	69.9	*	81.7	60.5	53.5	152.8	*
District of Columbia	86.7	20.9	5.4	141.7	*	65.5	25.9	*	79.9	*	110.8	18.8	4.8	300.6	*
Florida	55.5	46.5	41.8	88.1	60.8	33.3	26.1	22.2	59.1	38.9	90.8	79.1	73.8	132.5	92.9
Georgia	65.4	54.7	50.1	87.0	127.5	40.3	30.7	27.9	59.4	76.9	102.5	90.9	84.0	126.0	197.7
Hawaii	45.7	17.2	14.2	34.7	96.0	29.5	6.9	4.7	*	79.3	67.3	29.8	25.8	*	117.8
Idaho	44.8	44.6	38.8	*	101.3	24.5	24.3	19.5	*	72.8	73.1	73.0	65.9	*	140.0
Illinois	53.2	40.7	28.7	113.7	100.8	32.7	22.7	14.6	80.3	63.1	85.0	68.8	50.5	165.3	159.5
Indiana	53.3	48.0	46.0	102.9	99.7	28.9	24.9	23.5	65.1	62.1	89.5	82.2	79.3	160.8	158.0
Iowa	35.2	33.5	31.5	93.4	106.6	18.6	17.4	16.2	59.3	63.7	60.3	57.8	54.6	139.4	174.5
Kansas	47.0	43.3	38.1	96.6	106.7	24.8	22.0	18.4	57.3	65.4	81.1	76.0	68.2	154.0	171.2
Kentucky	57.0	54.1	53.9	89.1	69.5	31.5	29.3	29.2	56.0	*	94.2	90.6	90.4	133.0	*
Louisiana	66.4	45.4	45.8	95.8	32.9	40.4	23.8	24.0	67.0	15.3	100.6	77.1	77.8	133.7	55.0
Maine	30.4	30.0	29.9	*	*	14.9	14.6	14.5	*	*	54.5	54.2	54.1	*	*
Maryland	43.1	29.6	27.6	73.5	52.6	26.4	15.9	14.6	50.1	32.0	69.2	51.2	48.2	109.6	82.0
Massachusetts	30.8	27.5	19.9	71.3	106.3	18.2	15.4	9.7	45.4	72.1	49.5	45.5	35.1	114.7	161.0
Michigan	42.6	34.6	32.1	84.6	87.9	23.9	18.0	16.4	55.0	52.7	70.9	59.8	56.0	128.6	140.8
Minnesota	30.6	24.5	21.9	115.4	130.2	16.5	12.1	10.3	74.3	86.5	52.7	43.8	40.0	181.4	197.6
Mississippi	73.0	53.7	53.4	95.1	*	47.2	30.3	30.1	67.1	*	110.3	88.5	88.2	134.3	*
Missouri	51.2	44.2	43.2	97.6	81.7	28.6	23.1	22.4	64.7	52.3	85.7	76.4	75.2	148.9	122.1
Montana	37.1	31.6	30.4	*	*	19.8	16.0	15.0	*	*	63.3	54.9	53.4	*	*
Nebraska	37.0	33.7	29.4	81.9	99.3	20.5	18.0	14.9	55.5	64.3	61.6	57.0	50.8	125.0	154.9
Nevada	65.7	65.1	46.4	81.3	117.2	38.2	37.4	24.3	53.4	75.9	109.5	108.7	82.2	124.9	177.5
New Hampshire	27.1	27.2	26.7	*	*	13.1	13.0	12.6	*	*	50.0	50.5	49.8	*	*
New Jersey	34.6	25.6	13.6	80.4	76.2	20.2	14.2	6.6	52.0	47.6	56.9	43.3	24.8	120.9	117.5
New Mexico	69.0	69.7	39.6	57.1	93.0	44.2	44.8	20.1	41.3	64.6	107.5	107.9	70.1	*	136.6
New York	38.5	33.9	21.6	61.4	75.2	22.4	19.2	10.9	37.8	46.9	62.4	55.1	37.0	98.4	118.2
North Carolina	61.0	50.6	44.4	84.7	198.6	36.2	27.7	24.4	56.2	107.5	98.5	85.6	75.1	125.5	341.8
North Dakota	30.4	24.6	24.0	*	*	16.1	11.6	11.3	*	*	52.5	44.2	43.2	*	*
Ohio	48.1	40.6	39.6	96.8	83.1	26.7	21.0	20.3	63.6	50.8	80.3	70.1	68.7	145.5	130.8
Oklahoma	61.6	56.0	52.2	85.0	110.6	35.0	30.2	27.0	55.4	76.8	102.6	95.8	90.8	124.6	164.4
Oregon	47.4	46.9	40.2	72.2	113.9	26.3	25.7	21.0	49.1	73.4	80.0	79.5	69.9	105.4	174.5
Pennsylvania	36.9	29.3	25.7	98.8	114.7	21.8	16.1	13.4	66.4	80.2	60.2	49.5	44.7	150.0	169.7
Rhode Island	41.0	36.9	27.3	74.2	129.1	24.4	21.4	14.8	44.1	79.6	65.8	60.0	45.6	*	*
South Carolina	60.4	48.2	47.2	80.3	80.8	39.6	29.3	28.6	56.3	53.5	89.8	74.7	73.4	114.6	*
South Dakota	38.5	28.7	28.3	*	*	19.6	13.3	12.9	*	*	66.0	50.1	49.7	*	*
Tennessee	64.3	55.0	53.8	98.9	113.9	37.7	29.6	28.9	68.0	66.4	103.4	92.7	90.9	141.8	*
Texas	70.9	71.4	43.4	80.7	106.3	45.2	45.5	23.3	52.1	73.4	109.3	110.2	73.5	121.3	156.0
Utah	40.9	40.1	33.7	*	120.4	22.2	21.8	16.8	*	83.5	65.6	64.3	55.9	*	169.1

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 3. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years, by age and race and Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1998—Con.

[Rates are births per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	15–19 years					15–17 years					18–19 years				
		White					White					White			
	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]
Vermont	24.4	24.6	24.9	*	*	11.4	11.4	11.5	*	*	44.6	45.3	46.0	*	*
Virginia	43.5	34.4	32.3	74.6	64.7	24.3	17.3	16.3	47.8	33.7	70.7	58.6	55.2	111.3	107.0
Washington	41.7	40.9	34.3	62.9	101.0	23.2	22.6	17.9	34.3	65.7	69.6	68.4	58.9	104.6	153.3
West Virginia	49.2	48.5	48.6	72.4	*	26.2	25.7	25.7	44.8	*	81.5	80.8	81.1	105.3	*
Wisconsin	34.8	26.2	23.2	126.7	104.2	19.6	13.3	11.2	84.0	65.5	58.1	45.7	41.3	197.6	167.5
Wyoming	47.8	45.9	42.6	*	88.8	22.8	21.5	19.1	*	*	86.5	83.7	79.1	*	*

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (based on fewer than 20 births or fewer than 1,000 women in specified group).

[1] Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

NOTES: Rates by race and Hispanic origin cannot be computed for the territories because populations are not available by race and Hispanic origin for these areas. Birth rates shown in this table are based on populations provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and, therefore, may differ from those computed on the basis of other population estimates.

Table 4. Birth rates for teenagers age 15–19 years, by race and Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1991 and 1998, and percent change, 1991–98

[Rates are births per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	Non-Hispanic white			Black			American Indian			Asian or Pacific Islander			Hispanic		
	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98
United States	43.4	35.2	–18.9	115.5	85.4	–26.1	85.0	72.1	–15.2	27.4	23.1	–15.7	106.7	93.6	–12.3
Alabama	56.4	52.9	–6.2	111.0	88.6	–20.2	*	*	*	*	18.7	*	*	99.9	*
Alaska	50.8	30.5	–40.0	*	49.3	*	115.3	77.3	–33.0	*	40.3	*	*	65.0	*
Arizona	53.5	41.3	–22.8	126.7	76.4	–39.7	103.8	83.4	–19.7	27.8	21.3	**–23.4	131.1	124.7	–4.9
Arkansas	66.8	60.3	–9.7	127.3	99.6	–21.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	110.7	*
California	42.9	27.7	–35.4	98.7	64.0	–35.2	50.9	47.0	**–7.7	27.9	20.0	–28.3	122.4	87.1	–28.8
Colorado	40.2	30.6	–23.9	122.3	76.3	–37.6	76.3	76.4	**0.1	35.5	26.4	**–25.6	118.7	113.8	**–4.1
Connecticut	20.4	17.1	–16.2	98.4	77.3	–21.4	*	*	*	19.1	13.2	**–30.9	131.9	117.7	–10.8
Delaware	37.5	34.2	**–8.8	134.0	104.0	–22.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	112.1	*
District of Columbia	10.2	5.4	**–47.1	135.3	141.7	**4.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Florida	50.6	41.8	–17.4	132.4	88.1	–33.5	61.5	62.1	**1.0	15.8	19.2	**21.5	60.5	60.8	**0.5
Georgia	54.7	50.1	–8.4	118.4	87.0	–26.5	*	*	*	28.1	19.3	**–31.3	90.5	127.5	40.9
Hawaii	37.9	14.2	–62.5	*	34.7	*	*	*	*	64.7	58.4	–9.7	116.0	96.0	–17.2
Idaho	48.9	38.8	–20.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	124.9	101.3	–18.9
Illinois	36.9	28.7	–22.2	146.1	113.7	–22.2	*	39.1	*	12.7	9.5	–25.2	103.4	100.8	**–2.5
Indiana	53.0	46.0	–13.2	126.6	102.9	–18.7	*	*	*	13.9	18.9	**36.0	64.4	99.7	54.8
Iowa	39.5	31.5	–20.3	138.1	93.4	–32.4	*	*	*	32.9	28.2	**–14.3	80.9	106.6	31.8
Kansas	46.8	38.1	–18.6	131.4	96.6	–26.5	*	68.4	*	38.6	30.3	**–21.5	98.1	106.7	**8.8
Kentucky	64.8	53.9	–16.8	117.6	89.1	–24.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	69.5	*
Louisiana	52.7	45.8	–13.1	117.5	95.8	–18.5	*	84.5	*	19.2	23.4	**21.9	24.8	32.9	**32.7
Maine	43.3	29.9	–30.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maryland	36.2	27.6	–23.8	96.9	73.5	–24.1	*	*	*	12.1	10.4	**–14.0	44.2	52.6	19.0
Massachusetts	25.3	19.9	–21.3	95.7	71.3	–25.5	*	*	*	30.6	21.6	–29.4	129.8	106.3	–18.1
Michigan	41.1	32.1	–21.9	130.1	84.6	–35.0	*	47.2	*	19.4	20.7	**6.7	90.3	87.9	**–2.7
Minnesota	29.2	21.9	–25.0	156.3	115.4	–26.2	144.2	92.5	–35.9	70.7	69.8	**–1.3	100.9	130.2	29.0
Mississippi	59.1	53.4	–9.6	117.6	95.1	–19.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Missouri	51.3	43.2	–15.8	146.3	97.6	–33.3	*	*	*	19.6	20.4	**4.1	67.4	81.7	21.2
Montana	38.7	30.4	–21.4	*	*	*	131.8	90.8	–31.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nebraska	34.7	29.4	–15.3	130.3	81.9	–37.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	99.8	99.3	**–0.5
Nevada	60.4	46.4	–23.2	138.4	81.3	–41.3	*	64.2	*	42.8	47.3	**10.5	114.1	117.2	**2.7
New Hampshire	---	26.7	---	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
New Jersey	18.2	13.6	–25.3	103.3	80.4	–22.2	*	*	*	7.3	6.8	**–6.8	85.1	76.2	–10.5
New Mexico	50.9	39.6	–22.2	100.8	57.1	–43.4	91.8	74.0	–19.4	*	*	*	101.0	93.0	–7.9
New York	26.3	21.6	–17.9	76.7	61.4	–19.9	29.9	35.2	**17.7	10.7	11.1	**3.7	85.4	75.2	–11.9
North Carolina	52.5	44.4	–15.4	110.9	84.7	–23.6	97.5	94.1	**–3.5	33.2	52.5	58.1	104.0	198.6	91.0
North Dakota	28.8	24.0	–16.7	*	*	*	143.2	110.0	–23.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ohio	48.9	39.6	–19.0	134.7	96.8	–28.1	*	*	*	15.2	20.9	**37.5	83.1	83.1	**0.0
Oklahoma	61.5	52.2	–15.1	132.0	85.0	–35.6	90.2	85.8	**–4.9	36.5	27.5	**–24.7	91.7	110.6	20.6
Oregon	49.2	40.2	–18.3	113.1	72.2	–36.2	84.5	82.3	**–2.6	21.5	29.5	**37.2	131.4	113.9	–13.3
Pennsylvania	33.1	25.7	–22.4	132.5	98.8	–25.4	*	*	*	18.9	14.8	**–21.7	130.1	114.7	–11.8
Rhode Island	33.5	27.3	–18.5	120.6	74.2	–38.5	*	*	*	*	57.1	*	109.2	129.1	**18.2

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 4. Birth rates for teenagers age 15–19 years, by race and Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1991 and 1998, and percent change, 1991–98—Con.

[Rates are births per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	Non-Hispanic white			Black			American Indian			Asian or Pacific Islander			Hispanic		
	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98	1991	1998	Percent change 1991–98
South Carolina	54.6	47.2	–13.6	102.8	80.3	–21.9	*	*	*	*	35.3	*	65.6	80.8	**23.2
South Dakota	35.6	28.3	–20.5	*	*	*	146.3	117.8	–19.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tennessee	61.9	53.8	–13.1	129.3	98.9	–23.5	*	*	*	24.6	34.9	**41.9	44.6	113.9	155.4
Texas	49.6	43.4	–12.5	116.0	80.7	–30.4	49.4	32.1	–35.0	17.8	15.2	**–14.6	110.2	106.3	**–3.5
Utah	44.4	33.7	–24.1	*	*	*	86.9	80.1	**–7.8	37.0	40.5	**9.5	104.3	120.4	15.4
Vermont	39.5	24.9	–37.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Virginia	40.5	32.3	–20.2	98.3	74.6	–24.1	*	*	*	14.6	16.9	**15.8	62.0	64.7	**4.4
Washington	46.5	34.3	–26.2	97.4	62.9	–35.4	102.1	77.9	–23.7	25.4	25.2	**–0.8	125.8	101.0	–19.7
West Virginia	57.4	48.6	–15.3	85.2	72.4	**–15.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wisconsin	30.1	23.2	–22.9	173.7	126.7	–27.1	95.8	76.5	–20.1	72.4	67.8	**–6.4	93.0	104.2	**12.0
Wyoming	50.0	42.6	–14.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	76.3	88.8	**16.4

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (based on fewer than 20 births or fewer than 1,000 women in specified group).
0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.
** Not significant at $p < 0.05$.
--- Data not available.

NOTES: Rates by race and Hispanic origin cannot be computed for the territories, because populations by race and Hispanic origin are not available for these areas. Birth rates by State shown in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and, therefore, the rates shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates.

Technical notes

Data shown in this report for 1998 and earlier years are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates registered in all States and the District of Columbia. More than 99 percent of births occurring in this country are registered. Tabulations by State also include Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas. However, totals shown for the United States do not include these areas.

Tabulations by race and Hispanic origin of mother are based on this information as reported on the birth certificate. Race and Hispanic origin are reported as separate items on the birth certificate. Although the overwhelming majority of Hispanic births (97 percent) are to white women, there are substantial differences in teenage childbearing patterns between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women. Therefore, data are shown separately for these groups.

Population data for computing birth rates were provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (3, 5). Rates by State shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates. State rates are based on mother's place of residence. Population estimates by race and Hispanic origin are not available for the territories. Data are not available for American Samoa and the Northern Marianas for 1991, because birth data were not collected.

Rates were not computed if there were fewer than 20 births in the numerator or fewer than 1,000 women in the specified group in the denominator. In tables 1–4, an asterisk is shown in place of the rate.

Additional detailed information on the tabulation of birth data by race, random variation, and relative standard error is provided in earlier reports (2,13).

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